

R E M A R K S

New claims 36 to 44 correspond to and replace original claims 5 to 13 respectively. Claims 36, 40, 41 and 42 are independent claims which include the features of original claim 1.

Claims 3, 15, 20, 32, and 33 were amended to correct minor grammatical problems. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments to claims 3, 15, 20, 32, and 33 are not related to patentability and do not narrow the scope of claims 3, 15, 20, 32, and 33.

Claims 1 to 35 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in Item No. 3 at the middle of page 2 of the Office Action.

Claim 1 was amended to delete "donut-shaped".

It is respectfully submitted that all the present claims meet all the requirements of 35 USC 112.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 5 to 13 in Item No. 11 at the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action is respectfully acknowledged.

Claims 1 to 4 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Brannon (USP 6,521,862) for the reasons set forth in Item No. 5 at the top of page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 to 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as

obvious over Brannon for the reasons set forth in Item No. 8 at the top of page 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Brannon in view of Kitayama et al.

(USP 5,725,625) for the reasons indicated in Item No. 10 at the middle of page 4 of the Office Action.

It was admitted in the Office Action that Brannon does not teach polishing a major surface of a substrate followed by a chemical strengthening.

Submitted concomitantly herewith is an English language translation of applicants Japanese priority application JP 2000-337433, filed November 6, 2000 and a STATEMENT OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION of Kumiko Minami, dated July 2, 2004. Applicants have thus perfected their claim for priority under 35 USC 119.

The November 6, 2000 filing date of JP 2000-337433 is before the reference date of USP 6,521,862. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that USP 6,521,862 be withdrawn as a reference.

It is respectfully solicited that the prior art rejections be withdrawn.

Submitted concomitantly herewith is an INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

Application No. 09/992,961
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

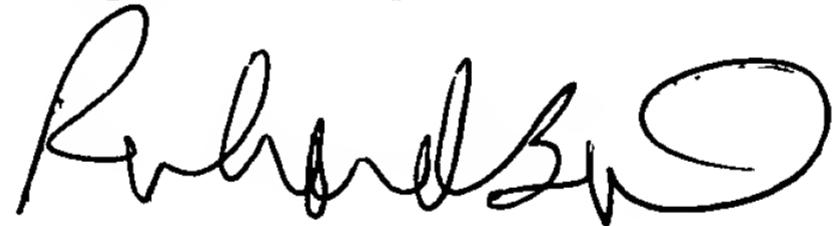
Enclosed is a check for \$258 in payment the extra claim fee for 3 additional independent claims and 10 additional claims in total.

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Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard S. Barth
Reg. No. 28,180

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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encs.

1. English Translation of JP 2000-337433 with a STATEMENT OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION
2. Information Disclosure Statement
3. Check for \$258 paying extra claim fee